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CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Ruturaj takes over from Dhoni as CSK captain

CHENNAI: In his 15th year with Chennai Super Kings, M S Dhoni (left) will feature just as a player in the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League, which begins at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday. Ruturaj Gaikwad (right), who has been with the franchise since 2019, will take over the mantle from Dhoni as CSK skipper | ASHWIN PRASATH

POLL CODE VIOLATION

BJP's Shobha, Surya booked for hate speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

UNION Minister Shobha Karandlaje and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya have been booked for hate speech.

Cases have been registered against these BJP leaders by Cottonpet and Halasuru Gate police, respectively, following complaints from election officials.

Leaders of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) had sought action against Karandlaje for alleging that a person from Tamil Nadu is behind the bomb blast in Bengaluru on March 1. However, Karandlaje, who is contesting as a BJP candidate from Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency, retracted her statement and apologised for the same.

On Wednesday, the Election Commission directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka to act on the DMK leaders' complaint against Karandlaje. In their complaint, the DMK leaders accused the union minister of violating the Model Code of Conduct by making such a statement.

Shobha Karandlaje

Tejasvi Surya

On Thursday, Cottonpet police booked her under Sections 123 (3A), 123 (3), and 125 – which deal with promoting enmity between classes on grounds of religion, race, caste, and community in connection with election – of the Representation of the People Act.

Halasuru Gate police booked Surya for his remarks during the protest against the assault on a shopkeeper for reportedly playing 'Hanuman chalisa' during 'azaan' at Nagarthpet in the city on March 17.

On March 18, Surya posted on the X platform, "A Hindu shopkeeper who was playing bhajans at his shop was assaulted by anti-social elements saying bhajans aren't allowed during the time of 'azaan'."

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BJP funds came via Qwik, Future & big corporates

Bond list with alphanumeric numbers released

From **Future Gaming**, TMC got ₹540 cr; DMK ₹509 cr; YSR Cong ₹154 cr; BJP ₹104 cr; Cong 50 cr

From **Qwik Supply**, BJP got ₹395 cr; Sena+NCP ₹35 cr

Keventer gave bonds worth ₹383 cr to BJP

Vedanta gave donations to BJP, Cong, BJD and TMC

Bharti Airtel donated to BJP, RJD, SAD, Cong, JD(U)

Muthoot donated to BJP and NCP

Bajaj group donations went to BJP, AAP

Apollo Tyres bonds went to Cong

Lakshmi Niwas Mittal donated to BJP

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw donated to BJP, TMC, Cong

Rungta Sons Pvt Ltd donated to Cong, BJP, TMC, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha

Torrent pharma donated to BJP, AAP, Cong

Natco Pharma gave bonds to BJP, TDP, TMC and BRS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Trinamool Congress (TMC) was the biggest beneficiary of the electoral bonds donated by lottery king Santiago Martin's Future Gaming & Hotel Services as it received ₹540 crore, followed by the DMK at ₹509 crore, YSR Congress ₹154 crore, the BJP ₹104 crore, and Congress at ₹50 crore, initial analysis of the full data uploaded by the Election Commission indicated. At ₹1,368 crore, Martin was the largest donor of electoral bonds to political parties.

Qwik Supply Chain Private Limited, which is considered to have links with the Reliance Group, donated ₹395 crore to the BJP, besides contributing ₹35 crore to the Shiv Sena and the NCP put together.

Hyderabad-based infrastructure firm Megha Engineering donated over ₹500 crore to the saffron party. Western Power, a subsidiary of Megha Engineering, also donated ₹80 crore to the BJP. Besides, the group gave ₹195 crore to the BRS and ₹85 crore to the DMK. Megha spent ₹966 crore on electoral bonds, making it the second highest donor to political parties.

The next big donation to the BJP came from Kolkata-based Keventer Food Park Infra and its associate firms Madanlal Ltd and MKJ Enterprise, at ₹383 crore.

Bharti Airtel with ₹132 crore and Vedanta at ₹128 crore were the other corporates that donated liberally to the ruling party.

The new data includes alphanumeric numbers that can help match the bond buyers with the parties that redeemed the bonds.

The ECI released two sets of data — 552 pages of details of redemption by political parties and 386 pages of donor details — cover electoral bonds purchased and redeemed from April 2019 until January 2024. "In compliance with the Supreme Court's directions, SBI has provided data pertaining to electoral bonds to ECI today i.e. March 21. The ECI has uploaded it on its website as received from SBI on an 'as is where is basis'," it said.

KEJRI ARRESTED

Delhi Police personnel removing an Aam Aadmi Party worker protesting against the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal | PRAVEEN NEGI

➲ YOU READ IT HERE FIRST ON JUNE 22, 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

HOURS after the Delhi High Court refused to grant any interim protection from coercive action to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday night arrested him in connection with a money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

This paper was the first to break the story on June 22, 2022 that federal investigative agencies were looking into the Delhi excise policy scam.

The ED will produce Kejriwal before a Delhi court on Friday and seek his custody for interrogation.

The arrest came amid high drama and protests by Aam Aadmi Party workers, who thronged the CM's official residence shouting slogans against the ED. Besides Delhi Police personnel, Rapid Action Force and CRPF teams were deployed around the CM's residence during the operation.

Kejriwal had skipped nine summons by the probe agency, claiming the notices were illegal and politically motivated.

AAP leader Atishi said Kejriwal will not resign as CM and will run the city government from jail, if need be. She said the party's legal team has moved the Supreme Court seeking an urgent hearing. The apex court is likely take up the matter on Friday.

The case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was later scrapped. The ED alleges the accused were in touch Kejriwal for tweaking the excise policy in such a way to bring undue benefits to them. In return, they paid kickbacks to the AAP, it was alleged.

Prominent AAP leaders like Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are already in jail in connection with the scam.

Law student kills self by jumping before Metro train at Attiguppe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 19-year-old law college student, **Dhruv Thakkar**, died by suicide after jumping onto the tracks of the Attiguppe Metro station on the Purple Line before an approaching train on Thursday afternoon. Metro services on the line were disrupted for two hours.

The incident happened on the tracks adjoining Platform One of the station at 2.10 pm when a train headed towards Whitefield was coming to a halt at Attiguppe station.

Some commuters who were at the platform when the incident occurred said the student jumped onto the tracks where the platform ends and where there was hardly any crowd. As the train was entering the station, he jumped onto the tracks and placed his head on it. At the time the tragedy took place, the security guards were further away on the platform where it was more crowded.

Dhruv, a first-year student at National Law School of India University (NLSIU), was from Mumbai. P2

EXPRESS READ

Won't quit BJP, will cleanse it of graft, casteism: DVS

Bengaluru: Senior BJP leader DV Sadananda Gowda on Thursday clarified that he will not quit the saffron party. "I will continue with the party and cleanse it of corruption, casteism and dynastic politics," he told reporters | P6

Schneider Electric to invest Rs 3.2 K cr in India

Bengaluru: French multinational Schneider Electric, which specialises in digital automation and energy management, has committed to invest Rs 3,200 crore in India by 2026 in a bid to expand its presence | P12

6 ministers' kin among 17 in Cong 2nd list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Congress released its second list of 17 candidates for Lok Sabha elections from Karnataka on Thursday evening. As expected, the party selected AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani for Kalaburagi constituency. Kharge, a Rajya Sabha member, had indicated that he would not contest the LS elections given his busy campaign schedule. Kharge was defeated in the 2019 LS elections in Kalaburagi constituency.

In Kodagu-Mysuru constituency, KPCC spokesman M Laxamana, a Vokkaliga, will face Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the scion of the royal family. Ministers' kin, who have been chosen, are Ramalinga Reddy's daughter Soumya Reddy for Bengaluru South, Laxmi Hebbalkar's son Mrinal Hebbalkar for Belagavi, Satish Jarkiholi's daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi for Chikkodi, Shivananda Patil's daughter Samyukta Patil for Bagalkot, Eshwar Khandre's son Sagar Khandre for Bidar and SS Mallikarjun's wife Prabha Mallikarjun for Davanagere. Sources said ministers, who have been asked to contest the LS elections, managed to get their kin selected as candidates, promising that they would get them elected. The party is likely to face a revolt in some constituencies.

Jayaprakash Hegde

Prof Rajeev Gowda

Soumya Reddy

Priyanka Jarkiholi

CONTINUED ON: P4

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